

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /099 W

-----085387 032149Z /64

R 030700Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 236

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MILI, PDEV, SO, ET, DJ

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF LOW MORALE IN SOMALI FORCES

1. FRENCH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS IN DJIBOUTI INDICATE THAT SUBSTANTIAL WSLF AND SOMALI REGULAR ARMY LOSSES DURING FIGHTING IN DIREDAWA ATTACK OF AUGUST 16-17 HAVE CAUSED SOME DESERTIONS, EXECUTIONS OF DESERTERS AND LOW MORALE IN UNITS IN THE FIGHTING ZONE. THIS HAS LED TO SUBSTANTIAL REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE SOMALI FORCES, THE DETAILS OF WHICH ARE STILL NOT CLEAR.

2. ACCORDING TO INVORMATION HERE, THE SOMALI MILITARY COMMANDER FOR THE OGADEN COMBAT IS COL. FARAH WAIS DULEH, AND ETHNIC ISSA, WHOSE HIGH COMMAND IS LOCATED IN HARGEISA. HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF
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IS REPORTED TO BE COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF BADOBOUSI ETHNIC ELEMENTS. AMONG THESE OFFICERS ARE A COL. GEDI, WHO IS CHIEF OF STAFF TO FARAH WAIS, AND COL. FARAH AWALEH, WHO MAY BE THE CAMPAIGN COMMANDER AT DIRE DAWA.

3. THE EARLIER EMBASSY REPORT OF SOMALI TANK MOVEMENTS TO THE ASSAB - ADDIS ABABA ROAD IS PROBABLY INCORRECT. THERE ARE REPORTS,

HOWEVER, OF ARMS AND MEN (PROBABLY WSLF) BEING MOVED ACROSS
REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI TERRITORY AT NIGHT O/A 26 AUGUST TO SUPPORT
ALI MIRAH FORCES NOW BEING COLLECTED WITH THE VIEW OF INTERDICTING
SUPPLY MOVEMENTS TOWARD ADDIS ABABA. THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL
CONVOY OF PERHAPS 60 TRUCKS NOW IN DJIBOUTI BEING PREPARED FOR
EARLY DEPARTURE FOR ETHIOPIA. THE CONVOY IS COMPOSED OF FUEL
CARRIERS AND MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES. ONE MAJOR CONCERN THERE IS
TO PREVENT AN ATTACK ON THIS CONVOY BEFORE IT LEAVES DJIBOUTI
TERRITORY. FRENCH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT ETHIOPIANS
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP LOSSES ON THESE KIND OF CONVOYS TO BELOW
TEN PERCENT, CONSIDERED AN ACCEPTABLE FIGURE.

CLARKE

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